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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0058
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHG/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 1127
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0324

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 000230

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EUR/WE, EUR/ERA AND IO/HR:CMUSSER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/25/2020

TAGS: PHUM UNGA UNHRC BE

SUBJECT: BELGIUM WILL ABSTAIN IN UPCOMING UNGA VOTE ON GOLDSTONE REPORT

REF: A. STATE 15722

1B. BRUSSELS 1587

Classified By: Acting Polec Counselor Robert Kiene for reasons 1.4(b) and (d)

(C) On February 24, poloff and polintern delivered ref A demarche to Lieke Biesemans, attach for human rights at the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA). Biesemans said Belgium will abstain in the February 26 vote by the UN General Assembly (UNGA) on a Palestinian-drafted resolution based on the Goldstone Report. Domestic accountability by both Israelis and Palestinians for human rights abuses is a crucial issue to Belgium, she said, and both parties should continue their investigations. Biesemans said Belgium does not currently see a unified EU position on the Goldstone Report vote. She said Belgium wants any further discussion on the report to take place in Geneva, not New York. She acknowledged this will be difficult because Belgium and the U.S. are in a minority on this issue.

GUTMAN

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